UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL
E/CN.4/2001/NGO/73
30 January 2001

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-seventh session
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

Written statement*/ submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[11 January 2001]

*/ This written statement is issued, unedited, as received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE. *200'0'0776*

ENG

1. In spite of the most appreciable achievements in the field of Human Rights in Europe, there are some deplorable scenes of ignorance of the fundamental rights of human beings belonging to other races even in western Europe. The xenophobia and racial discrimination has some deep roots in European culture which must be seriously considered.

2. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) has expressed in March 2000 its main concerns with respect to racial hatred in Spain.(1) The reality that the racial aspect of attacks against foreigners has not been taken into consideration, is one of its anxieties.

3. El Ejido incidents in Spain deserve special attention: Demonstrations followed by the murder of a woman by a Moroccan immigrant on 5 February 2000 led to violent attacks against Moroccan population which resulted in destruction of Moroccan properties. The attendance of several off-duty police among the demonstrators can be regarded as a sign of serious hatred against foreigners even among the police personnel. The commission of inquiries consists of jurists, journalists and members of different NGOs from 10 European countries in its report dated 20 June 2000 concluded that the aggression was organized by the political authorities.

4. The growing violent incidents against foreigners in the Federal Republic of Germany especially in the former eastern Germany has allocated an especial concern of international community in previous year. Although there were some positive developments such as debates and public discussions about the prohibition of the right extremist party "NPD" (Nationale Partei Deutscland) in August 2000, the increasing violent incidents proved that more serious measures regarding hostilities against foreigners are inevitable.

5. According to the Antifaschistische Aktion (A German NGO), the real rate of racial violence in Germany is much more than the official figure. The Centre for Democratic Culture (Zentrum fuer Demokratische Kultur, ZDK) has the same idea.

6. The attack by skinheads against Alberto Adrian, from Mozambique, who lived for 12 years in Germany and his wife was a German, on 10 June 2000 which led to his death (2) and bomb explosion in Duesseldorf can be regarded as the signs of uprising the xenophobia in Germany.

7. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in its conclusions on 22 August 2000 was concerned about the recent upsurge in racism and xenophobia which resulted in increasing neo-nazi violence in Sweden. The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) believes that these concerns must be taken into consideration.

8. A group of Swedish NGOs has published a report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racism on 28 July 2000. The following failures deserve special concern in our opinion: Lower constitutional protection for foreigners, growing interest in racist and Nazi ideologies, growing racially motivated crimes, production and distribution of "White Noise" music and its undeniable effects on exiting neo-nazists, ignorance of the article 29(2) of the criminal code against racially motivated crimes.

9. The authorized activities of a radio station owned by a neo-Nazi association and also light sanctions for grave racial act are among the concerns of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which have been articulated in its observations on the report of Denmark on 23 March 2000.

10. According to the Ukrainian Committee Helsinki (January-August 2000) police ill-treatment against foreigners as well as ultra-rightists racist aggressions have been taken place in this country. The attack of 50 persons to a hostel for foreign students of the Lugank Medicine Institute at the end of August 2000 is one of these incidents.

11. Continuous ethnic violence in Kosovo, especially the events in August 2000 during pre electoral period and the lack of stability and security caused serious concerns.

12. Taking into consideration of the UN Conference on Racial Discrimination in August and September 2001 in South Africa, the ODVV believes that more serious measures shall be taken in order to challenge against xenophobia and racial hatred and discrimination all over the world. The Commission can further its activities through establishment a more sufficient mechanism for monitoring the relative cases in the world.

Notes:
1/ Concluding observations by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Spain. 19/04/2000. CERD /C/304/Add.95.
2/ Neue Zeit, 23 August 2000 .